

Texas Agricultural Finance Authority
(HB 1183 by Gibson/Edwards)

DIGEST: HB 1183 would have established a Texas Agricultural Finance Authority to issue up to \$45 million in general obligation bonds to help diversify Texas agriculture through loans for the production, processing, marketing and export of Texas crops.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON

FOR VETO: More debt is not the way to a solvent, productive agricultural enterprise; the answer is adequate world markets in which American farmers can sell their products. We can best aid Texas agriculture by concentrating our efforts in opening foreign markets, said the governor.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

"I am very disappointed, not for myself, but for the Texas farmers," said Sen. Chet Edwards, the Senate sponsor of HB 1183. "This was an economic development bill that was supported by a vast majority of Republicans and Democrats alike. It would have provided a 'boot-strap,' not a 'handout,' to Texas farmers. By encouraging the diversification of crops and the processing of home-grown products, it would have added hundreds of millions of dollars to our state's economy."

NOTES: The House Research Organization analysis of the bill appeared in the May 19, 1987 Daily Floor Report.

HJR 4, a proposed constitutional amendment that would authorize issuance of \$100 million in bonds for an agricultural development fund, which would have been implemented by HB 1183, is on the Nov. 3, 1987 ballot.